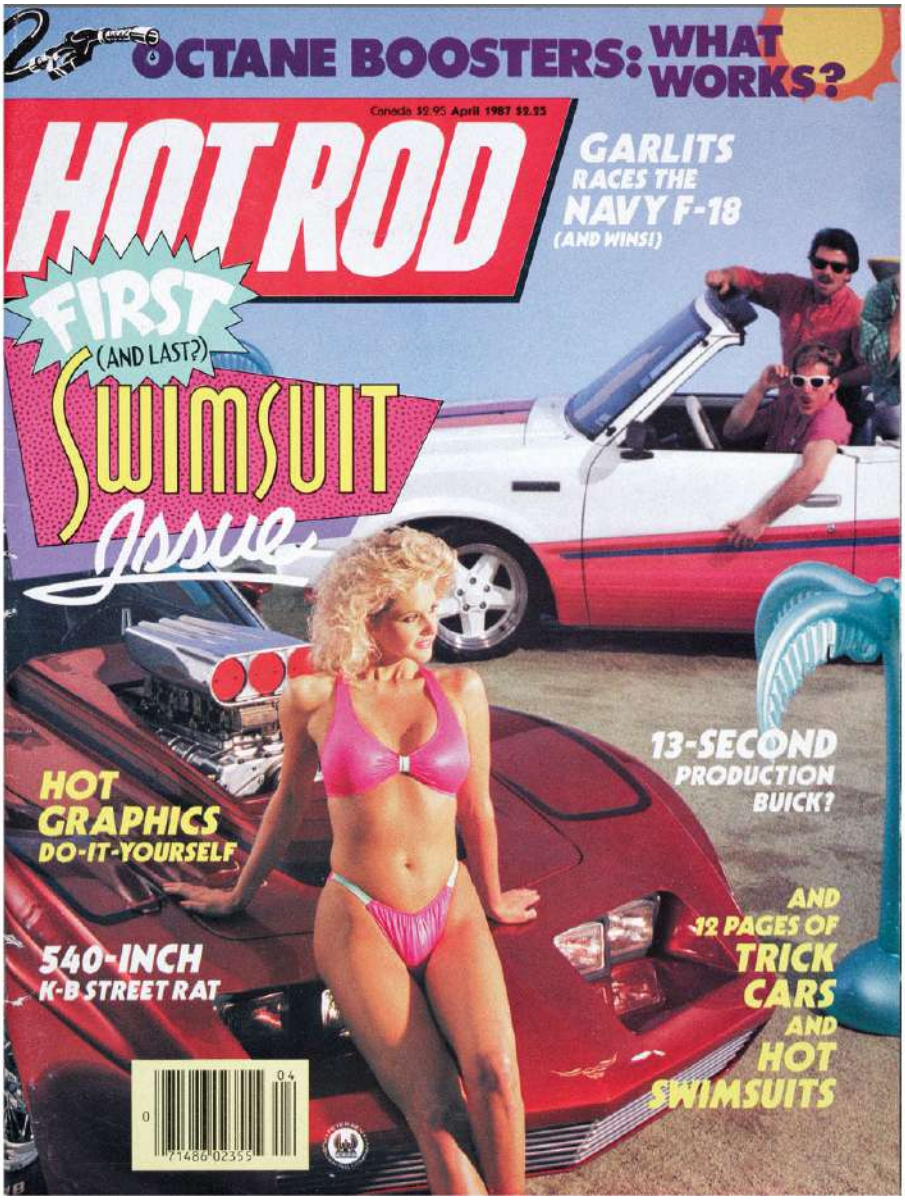

OCTANE BOOSTERS: WHAT WORKS?
Canada $2.95 April 1987 $2.25
HOT ROD
GARLITS RACES THE NAVY F-18 (AND WINS!)
FIRST (AND LAST?) SWIMSUIT Issue
HOT GRAPHICS DO-IT-YOURSELF
540-INCH K-B STREET RAT
13-SECOND PRODUCTION BUICK?
AND 12 PAGES OF TRICK CARS AND HOT SWIMSUITS

THE SWIMSUIT Edition

By Pat Ganahl

The very first issue of HOT ROD Magazine, January 1948, featured a four-page love story, a cartoon of a girl in a skimpy two-piece bathing suit talking on the telephone ("You say we're going to the lakes? That's swell. Then I won't have to change my clothes."), and the debut of a famous, popular, (hilarious?) early HOT ROD staple called "Parts With Appeal." The first installment featured a model in a swimsuit holding a fuel pump. A later version (July '53) is shown at right, with actress Merry Anders displaying a Thomas *magnesium* piston and rod. A few months later, Mamie Van Doren posed with an exhaust tip.

It's been going on ever since. From the days of "Somewhere West of Laramie" and well before, we have been intrigued with what sort of car would get the girl (or what sort of girl would *sell* the car). So it seemed somehow logical, certainly acceptable, to pose girls in bathing suits with hot rods—or vice versa. A typical sample is shown here, from our October '57 cover, which at least places the bathing beauties near a swimming pool (why is the car there?), but more often than not the swimsuited damsel would be posing with the hot rod in a green field, at a dragstrip, or in someone's driveway. Why? Well, because. It's always been that way in car mags.

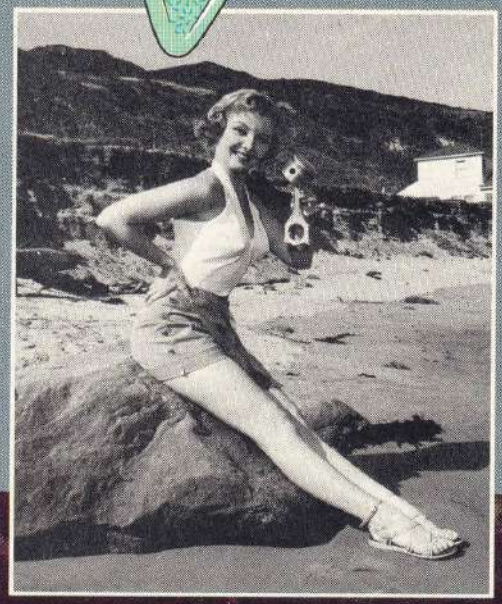
Maybe that's where *Sports Illustrated* got the idea to do their annual swimsuit edition, but we doubt it. It was probably natural inspiration. And now all the magazines are doing it.

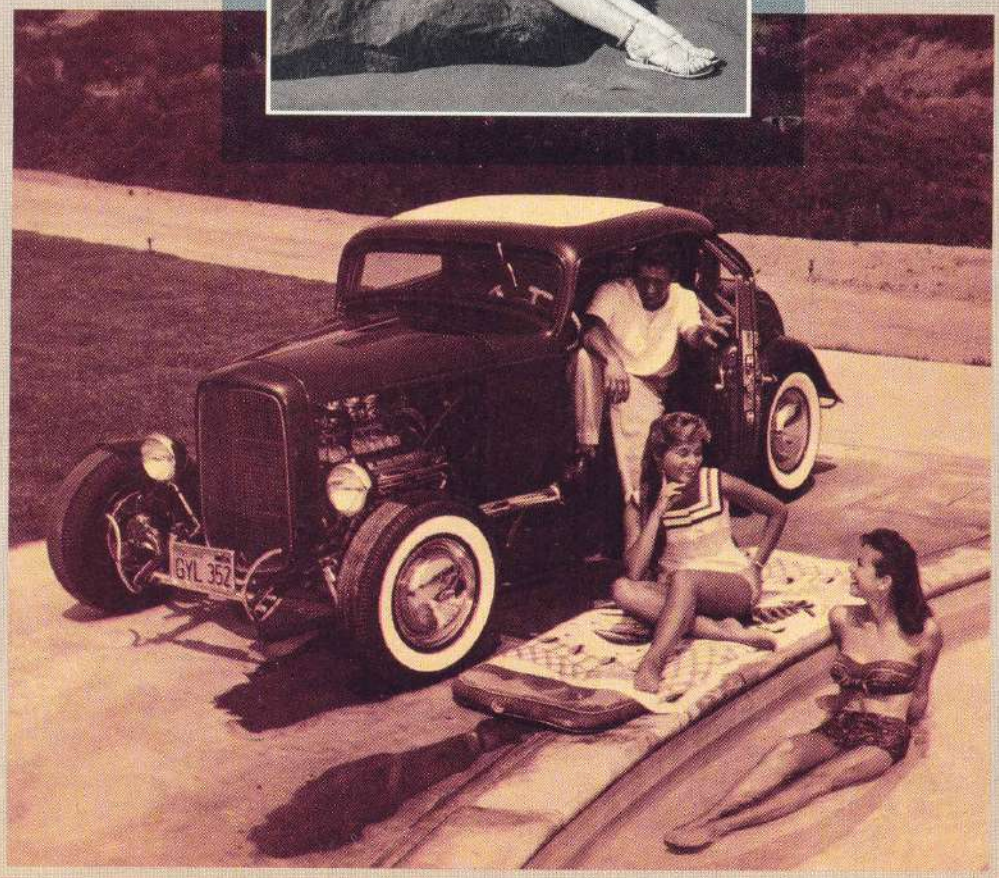
"Well," we thought, as we eyed the calendar for fast-approaching April, "why should HOT ROD be left out?" We've been doing this sort of thing all along. Girls with cars, cars with girls, girls in swimsuits with cars: this is right up our alley.

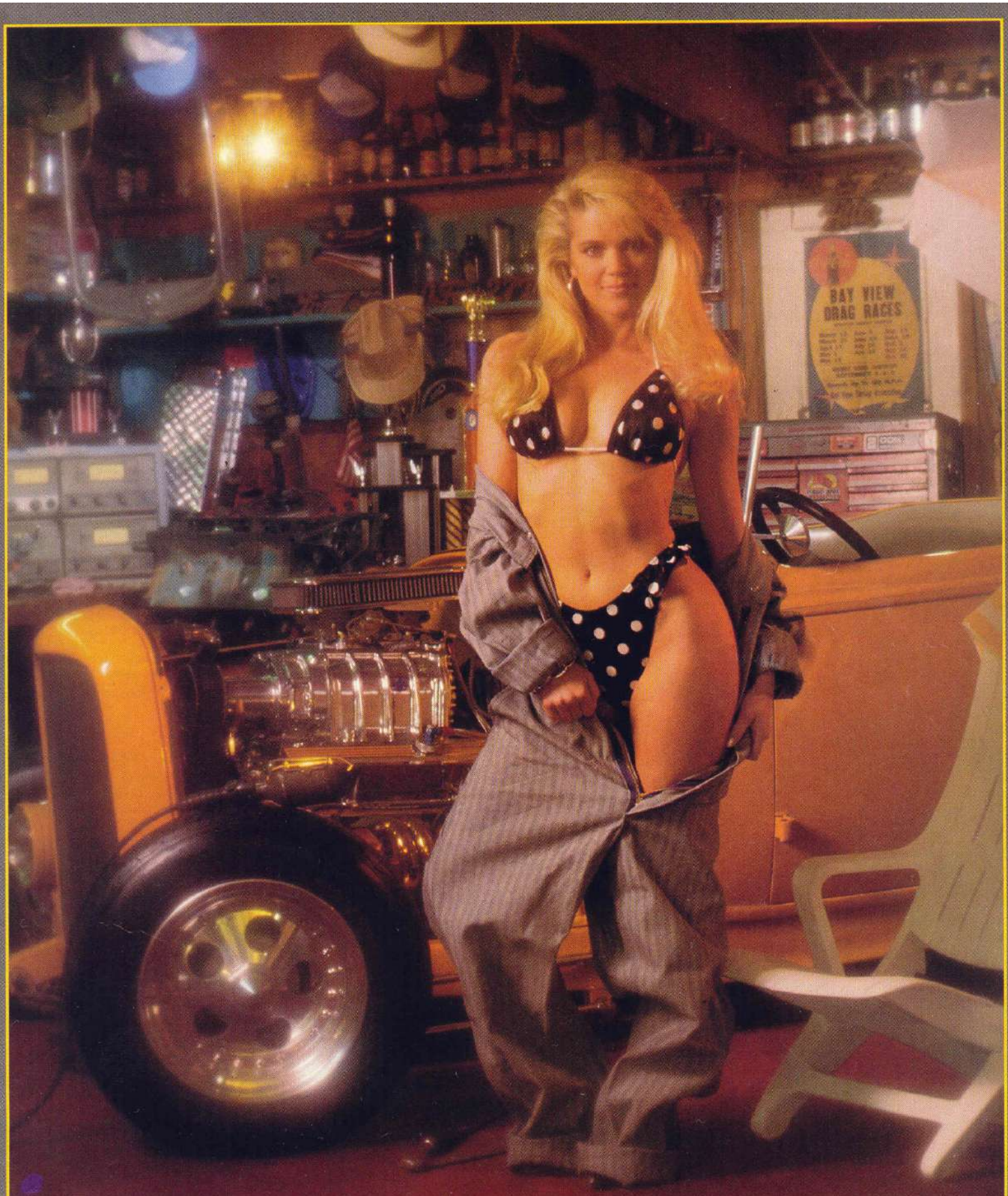
So we rounded up some typical, healthy, beach-type girls; dressed them in real swimsuits like you'd see at the beach; and then had two of our best free-lance photographers pose them and our hand-picked hot rods in striking settings anywhere *except* at the beach. We're trying to maintain the level of logical believability that has always been associated with this sort of feature. (If you don't believe the suits and wearers are typical beachgoers, we welcome you to visit our sunny shore. We might also mention that all of these photos were taken in December and January—and you wonder why we have a West Coast bias? Remember, we said *visit*; just visit.)

The two photographers whose inspired work you see on the following pages were eager to work on the project. Newcomer Robert Kittila, who set up our fake beach scene cover and shot the two cars individually, drives a black-primered, six-carb Hemi-powered, pure '50s-style Deuce roadster. Regular contributor Randy Lorentzen is adding three more shots (one of his own just-done Cobra roadster) to the nine here for an upcoming Swimsuit Edition Calendar (watch HOT ROD for further details). And just for balance, we asked long-time girls-with-cars photographer Robert K. Smith to send us some "classics" from his files (see page 101).

Girls, admire the swimsuits. Guys, admire the girls or the cars, as you wish. If there's nothing here you like, don't write us—you're reading the wrong magazine.



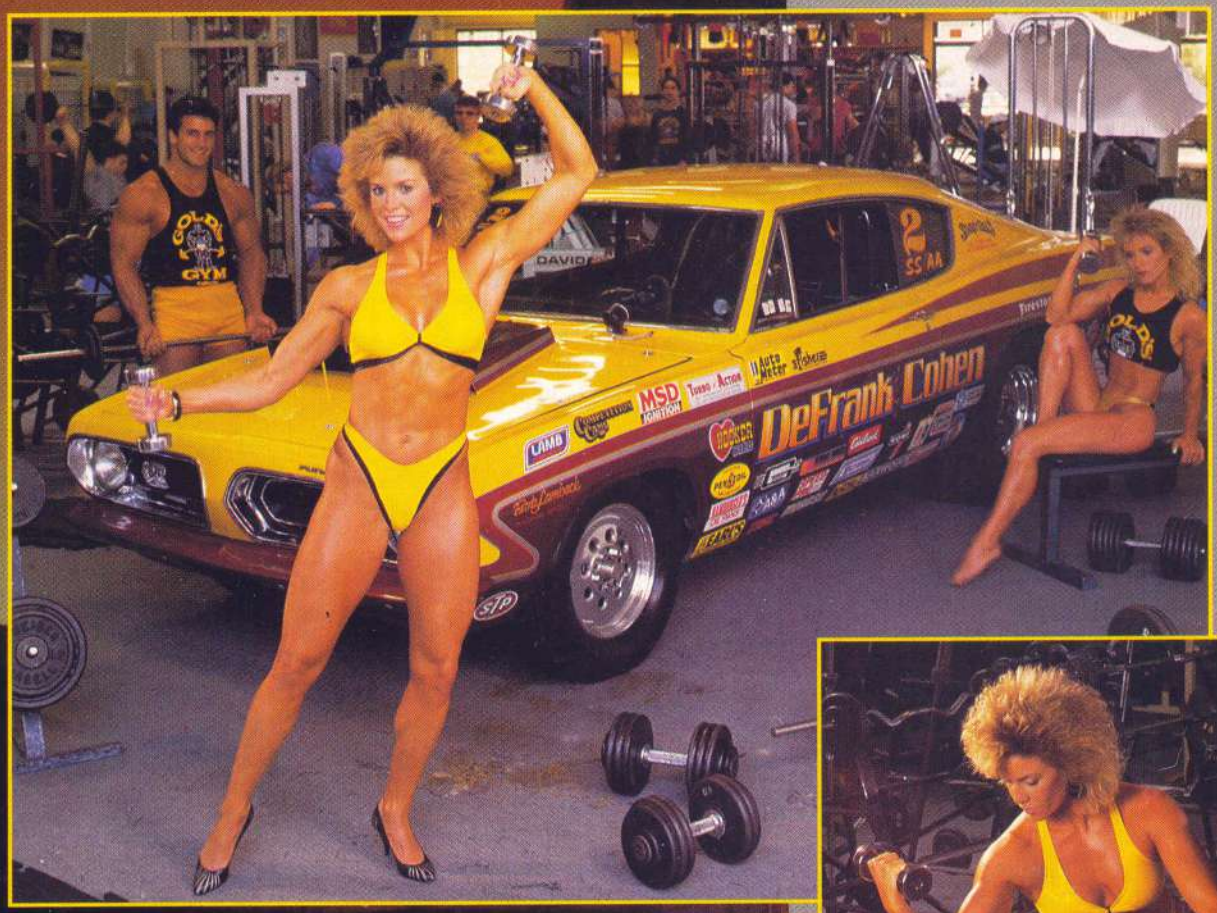


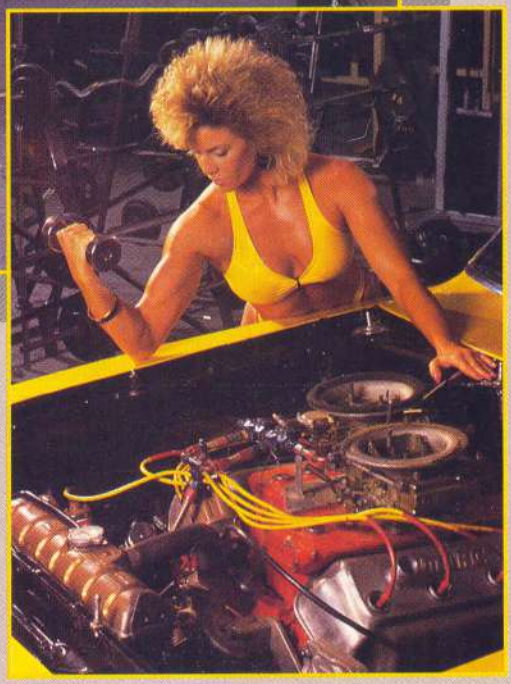


Remember the cover of "Best of HOT ROD?" That was the idea we started with here, but things just developed. The garage belongs to rodder Richard Hiltz, who is busy building his own all-steel '32 Highboy roadster there right now. All the neat ol' stuff in the background is his, too. The roadster pictured, however, belongs to Jim Jenks, owner of the now vast Ocean Pacific Sunwear company (Op), who happens to be an avid hot rodder. The sunflower-yellow Deuce originally came from Kentucky, but was rebuilt by California Street Rods. It features a Paul Pfaff 535-hp 383 Chevy with a Mooneyham 4-71, a TH-350, Art Chrisman air cleaner and valve covers, custom wheels, handmade hood, and Dave Gade leather interior. Besides Hiltz's coveralls, model Debbie Young wears a polka dot bikini by—who else?—Op (courtesy of Sport Mart).

Photography: Randy Lorentzen

HOT ROD
THE
SWIMSUIT
Edition





Gold's Gym in Venice Beach is home to bodybuilders, stars, and athletes alike—a perfect setup for a musclecar, right? And this musclecar is the world's fastest Super Stocker, the SS/AA record-holding '68 'Cuda of Jim DeFrank and Andy Cohen (the Beverly Hills Boys). The acid-dipped, 'glass-front, 426 Hemi hauls to mid-9's at 140 plus. Bodybuilder Cameo Kneuer can heft some muscle herself (suit by Beach Bee). At left we find the urban street hauler of Dave Reese of San Juan Capistrano. His '86 El Camino got slicked up by Boyd Coddington, who slapped on a set of his custom-crafted wheels and mixed a multi-hued candy graphics paint scheme. Tall, dark, and handsome Heidi Rauen is slicked down in baby oil and a Beach Bee bikini for some serious moontanning. Also basking in California's January evening elements in a marginal swimsuit custom-made (believe it or not) by her mother, Leslie Bremer punctuates the picture of Doug Hall's beautiful, classic, orchid-lavender '50 Merc convert. Built, painted, and upholstered in the shop of custom craftsman Dick Dean, it features a padded Carson top, frenched lights, full skirts, wide whites, DeSoto grille, and all the '50s touches.

Photography: Randy Lorentzen

Photography: Randy Lorentzen

SWIMSUIT SOURCES:

Beach Bee
1038 Hermosa Ave.
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
(213) 376-4416

Barely Legal
700 W. 190th St.
Gardena, CA 90248

Body Glove
530 6th St.
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

Ocean Pacific Sunwear (Op)
P.O. Box 2019
Tustin, CA 92680
(800) 672-3224

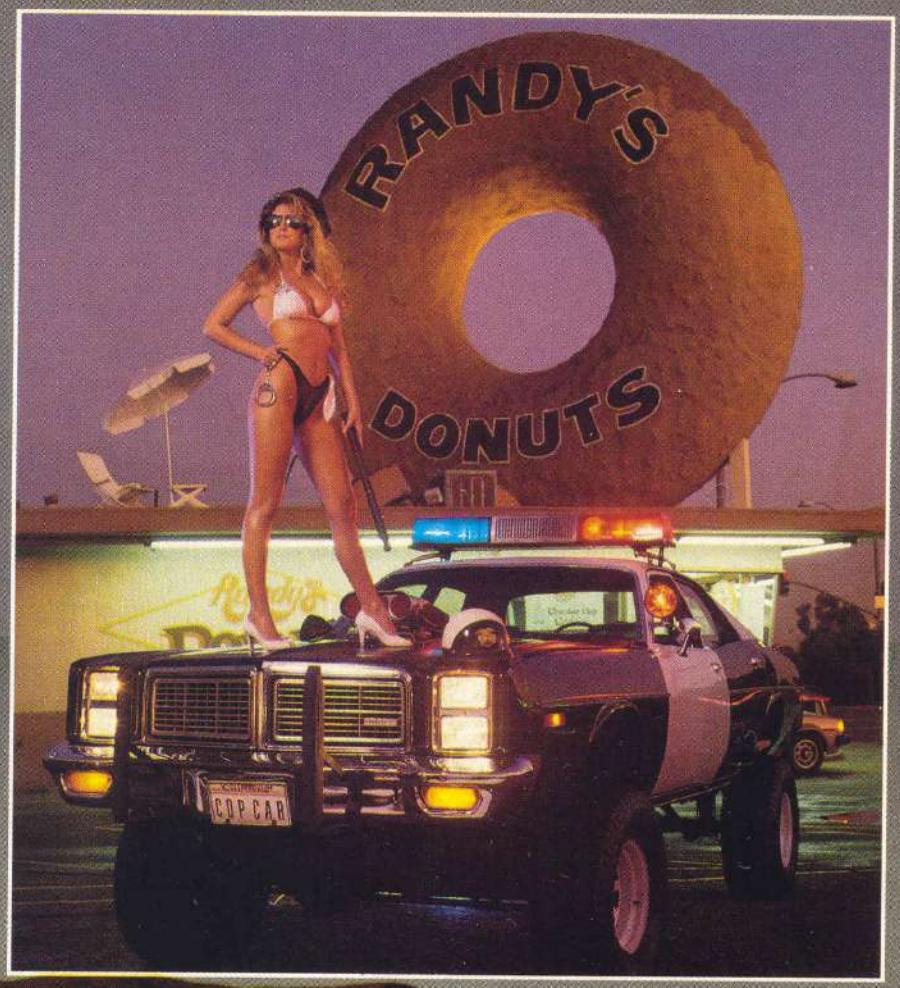
THE SWIMSUIT Edition

Bob Bauder has built plenty of neat rods, but his red, low, old-timey, drive-it-anywhere, low-buck '47 Ford convert is probably the most fun. It has the ubiquitous Chevy small-block mated to early Ford driveline and it runs, runs, runs. Randy shot it and blonde Dawn Farnham (in a Body Glove wetsuit) at the E.T. Surf Shop in Hermosa Beach. At left, another of Jim Jenks' ample rod collection—this low, louvered, and yellow '56 F-100 big-window pickup—rests in the infield at Ascot Speedway. Modeling another Op suit is Brenda Michel, this year's Miss Op. The classic pickup, largely constructed by Roy Fjastad, Jr. and finished up by Norm Francis in San Diego, has a fully painted and chromed undercarriage, milled aluminum interior goodies, and a tricked-out 429 Ford Cobra Jet for power.

Picture this: we ask Phil Miller and his (aptly named) "Mob" crew if they want their new Fuel Altered in our swimsuit issue. Sure! "Junkyard Ed" Vickroy offers his all-Mopar wrecking yard as a location. Great! Ed starts stacking up bodies with a forklift, Phil clears a spot on the greasy ground for the Fiat, and the Mob continues to grow in numbers. Model Kathy Stangel is wondering what she's gotten into. I run crowd control, Randy is reassuring, and she warms to the occasion, making her Patricia Martins suits (from Sport Mart) look great. The car, an all-new recreation of their '77 AA/FA by NSP Race Cars, features a 496-inch K-B hemi, Fiberglass Trends body, Bob Thompson lettering —and is the first Altered ever to go 5's!

No, Randy doesn't own the giant donut shop, he just eats there. We're not sure why it makes a great setting for Ron Wallace's wild 4x4 Police Car, but it does. Beach Bee did up the black and white bikini for Deneyse Addison, and Ron didn't seem to mind her spike heels dancing on his hood. Under it lies a 6-71 blown 360 Mopar . . . Yeah, that's the ticket! Below, Randy seems to have talked Stephanie Michaels into walking on water in her Barely Legal one-piece. Talking is a major part of this sort of photography. But he won't say where this unearthly location is—one of his favorite backgrounds and a perfect contrast to Hector Escobedo's high-tech '82 Z28. Mike Rocha painted the owner-designed graphics, Hector lowered it four inches, and it has a triple-amp, 600-watt JVC with six Pyle drivers inside that'll blow you away. High-tech white beach umbrella and furniture comes from Andrews Home Furnishings, 1238 Hermosa Ave., Hermosa Beach, CA 90254 (213) 374-8949.

Photography: Randy Lorentzen

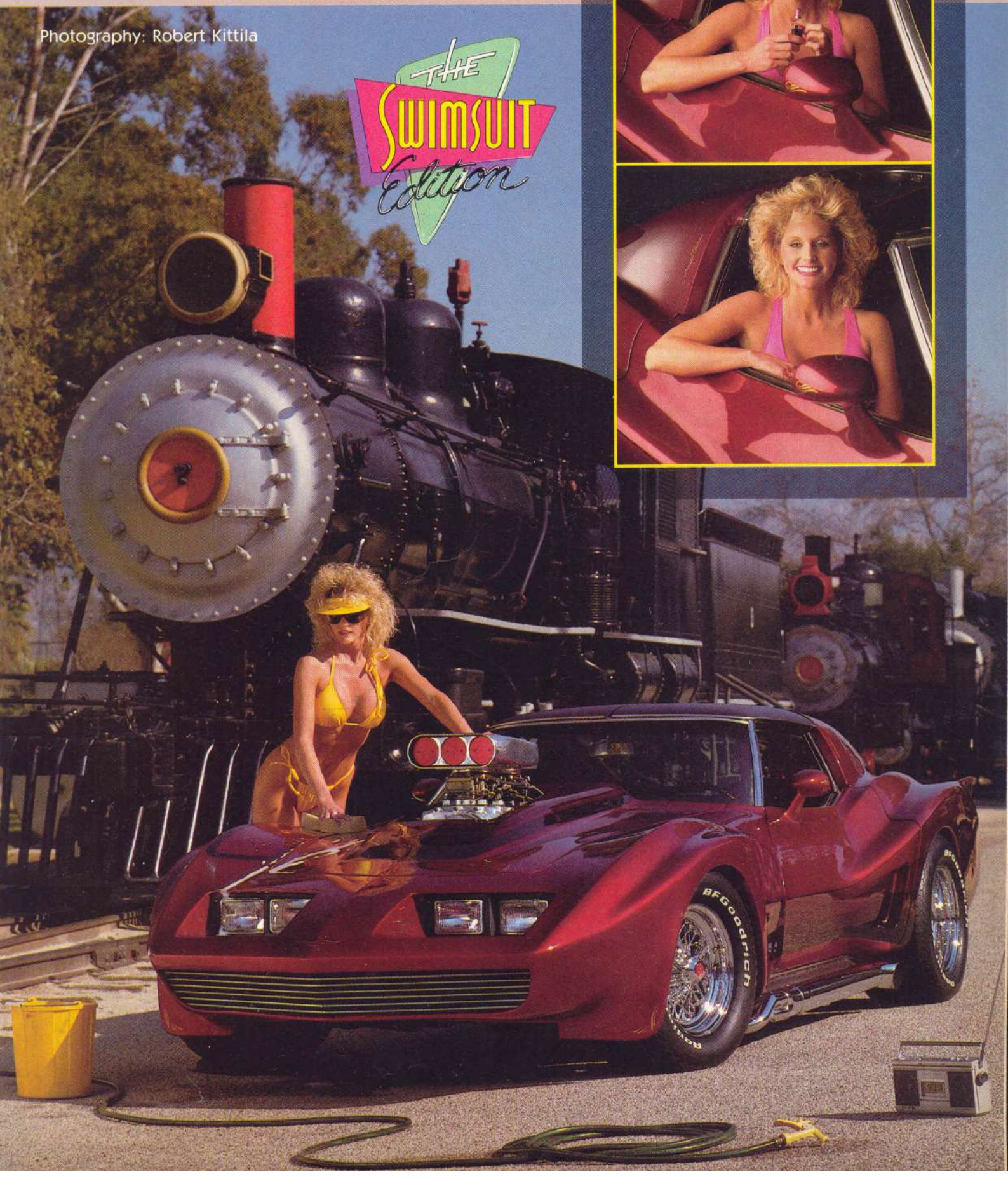


THE SWIMSUIT Edition

What more logical location to photograph a hot street 'Vette than "Travel Town" at Los Angeles' Griffith Park? Allen Fossat brought the car (through two snowstorms) all the way from Helper, Utah, to be on our cover. The candy red (by Jeff Watson and Norm Stull), Can-Am flared (by Fred Keele) '71 Corvette has a healthy, 8.5:1, 6-71-blown 400 small-block (by Stephen Floyd) with an Engle cam, Vertex mag, Holley 600's, and a Muncie 4-speed. Cover girl Stevie Sterling, besides regular print, TV, and film appearances, does a rousing stand-up comedy routine at L.A.-area clubs. Her hot pink and bright yellow suits are by Beach Bee.

Photography: Robert Kittila

THE SWIMSUIT Edition



THE SWIMSUIT Edition

The Righteous Brothers' '50s-style dance club "The Hop" (Lakewood, CA) is the setting for our mythical surf watch scene featuring 17-year-old high school senior Kristie Morrison in her first modeling role. Her suit was created by Beach Bee owner/designer Pat Brenner to complement the hot Santini pearl-pink graphics on Randy Leach's super-low '84 Nissan 'vert minitruck. Typical of SoCal beach cruisers, Randy's ragtop relies on bold graphics, low stance, and loud sounds—rather than mechanical changes—to make its statement. It rides on 15x7 Ronals with 1.95-50 Semperits, the converible top is by Ragtime Minis, and the sounds come from an Alpine digital stereo with a 100-watt amp and Pyle driver separates. Just the thing for cruising the coast to check out the surf, especially with some company along for the ride.

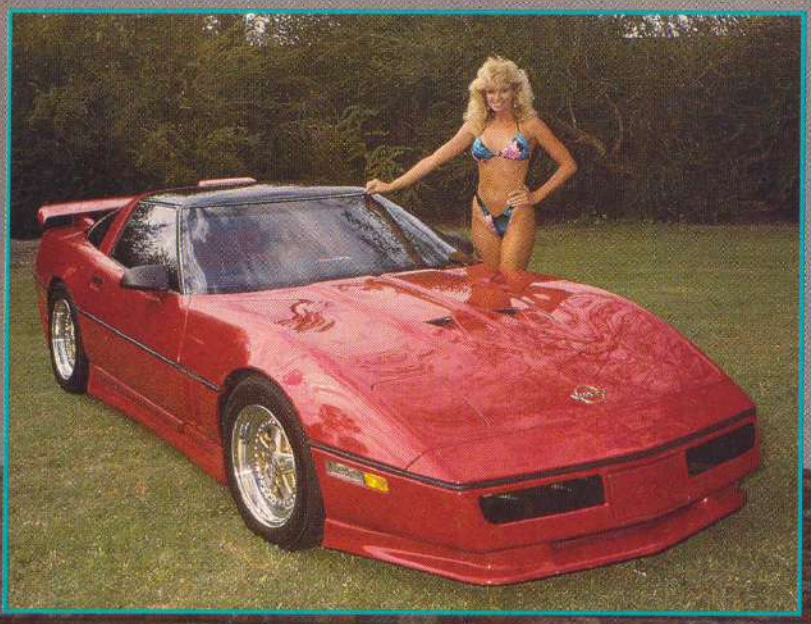
Photography: Robert Kittila

THE SWIMSUIT Edition

Photography: Robert K. Smith

Robert K. Smith, an unassuming, pidgin-talking, Hawaiian-transplant hot rodder who has owned a string of '55 Chevys and rad VW's, has worked as a writer/photographer for car magazines all his life. And he has always had an uncanny knack for coaxing the car owner's girlfriend, or literally the girl next door, to pose for his car pictures. None of these girls were professional models when Robert "discovered" them, though several have become since. The photos on the following three pages (two of which come courtesy of *Hot VW's* Magazine, where Robert works regularly) are a great sampling of typical girl-with-car photography. If you like it, Robert offers three of the best "legal" garage posters going, including Colleen with the flamed VW, Bridget with a VW convert, and Laurie with a '58 VW ambulance—at least *some* of the car is visible in each 18x24-inch, full-color poster ($5 each; R.K. Smith, P.O. Box 4171, Fullerton, CA 92634).

Here, Bridget Reed poses with Mark Mahood's owner-built, body-off-frame '67 Camaro convertible. It's a show winner, but the 4-bolt, steel-crank, Littlefield-blown 350 has run 11.10/119 through the mufflers at the track.

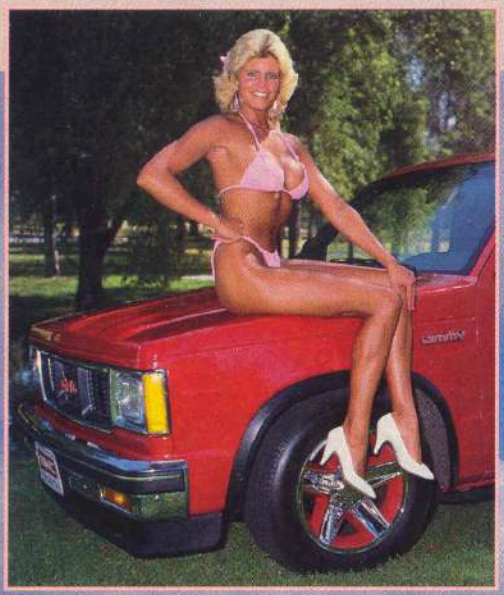


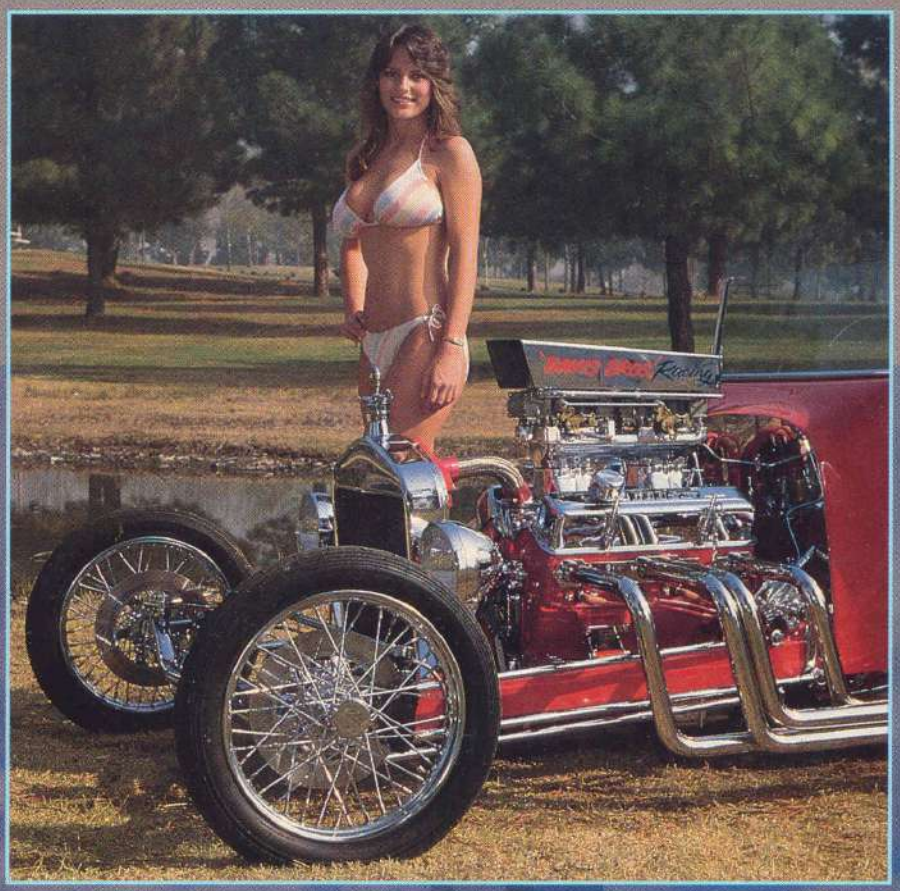
THE SWIMSUIT Edition

When R.K. wanted to photograph painter Steve Beam's beautiful, candy-tangerine '70 bug for the cover of *Hot VW's*, he got next-door neighbor Tricia Farr to pose with it. It's a good neighborhood. The street/show bug runs a 1755cc dual-Weber motor and Empi eight-spoke wheels. At top left Bridget adds some extra color to Jim Birmingham's monochromatic GM red '85 Corvette outfitted with a complete Coast Corvette (Anaheim) Euro body package. Gotti wheels complete the externals, while under the hood lies a Traco-tricked up, NOS-injected 350. At top right we see the latest in a string of very Rapid Rickshaw Super Comp (8.95/154) Datsun pickups built by Homer and Ron Williams of Victory Race Cars in Orange, California. Colleen Hughes is tuning-up the tunnel-rammed 438-inch Chevy and TH400.

Photography: Robert K. Smith

A car in a park next to a pond—perfect place for a swimsuited sweetheart. Whatever. The hot Porsche Red T-bucket belongs to Rick Davis of Fullerton, California, who built it from Specialty Cars parts, adding a potent .030-over 327 with dual 450 Holleys. You recognize Tricia. Below, Laurie Benedict, who works in a health spa in Issaquah, Washington, graces the front fender of Robert's own red, lowered, S-15 Jimmy with chromed and painted Z28 wheels.





Robert tries to visit his homeland of Honolulu yearly to photograph cars and local scenery. He got Roy Grace to paint hot licks on his black '70 bug for this shot, then asked if he knew any "scenic" girls to pose with it. His wife's aerobics instructor, Colleen Hughes, volunteered, and R.K. said, "She'll do!" Colleen has gone on to win local Bikini contests and has appeared on "Magnum, P.I." Get the poster; it's even better.

Photography: Robert K. Smith

THE SWIMSUIT Edition